

LOG OF MEETING

SUBJECT: National Fire Alarm Code Technical Committee Meeting on Household Fire Warning Equipment

DATE OF MEETING: April 1, 1997

PLACE: San Diego, California

NON-COMMISSION ATTENDEES:

Ronald Brave	National Association of Home Builders
Wayne Boyd	US Safety & Engineering Corporation
Merton Bunker, Jr.	National Fire Protection Association
Richard Bukowski	National Institute of Standards and Technology
David Christitan	Gentex Corporation
Dan Civello	Jefferson Parish Fire Department
Fred Conforti	Pittway Systems Technology Group
Matthew Hamm	BRK Brands, Inc.
John Parssinen	Underwriters Laboratories Inc.
Larry Ratzlaff	Fyrnetics Inc.
Walter Schuchard	Self
Sylva Dee Spicer	Schirmer Engineering Corporation

COMMISSION ATTENDEES:

Julie Ayres Office of Hazard Identification and Reduction

LOG ENTRY SOURCE: Julie Ayres

SUMMARY OF MEETING:

The purpose of the meeting was for the Committee of the Household Fire Warning Equipment to discuss and generate proposals for the next cycle of the National Fire Protection 72 (NFPA 72). In addition, the Committee discussed adopting performance based codes.

Proposals Discussed:

- Due to the high incident of unattended kitchen fires, Committee member Wayne Boyd proposed requiring heat detector in kitchens locations. The Committee discussed the proposal and related technical issues including research on heat detector performance. Committee members W. Boyd and F. Conforti agreed to investigate data, rationale, and feasibility of proposal.
- Committee member Julie Ayres proposed requiring photoelectric detectors near the kitchen to limit the number of unwanted nuisance alarms. Rationale for the proposal included recent studies by the CPSC staff and that a Boston Fire Marshall, Jay Flemming, made a requirement to use photoelectric detectors in the home near

kitchens and bathrooms in the city of Boston. Committee members J. Ayres, M. Hamm, and L. Ratzlaff volunteered to examine research and rationale, and generate proposal for consideration.

- R. Bukowski lead a discussion of the 10 year life batteries for use with smoke detectors and proposed to permit the 10 year battery where AC power is specified. If interconnection of smoke detectors is required by the code, then the single station 10 year battery detector would not be allowed. R. Bukowski and L. Ratzlaff offered to generate the proposal.
- The Committee discussed proposing a 10 year replacement cycle for smoke detectors. Members raised concerns about compatibility problems, difficulty in mounting the new detectors, and the difference in maintenance between commercial detectors and residential detectors. Thus, the Committee agreed to generate a proposal to recommend replacement, but not require replacement. The Committee agreed to include an extensive appendix on reliability and replacement cycles with extensive theoretical and practical justifications. M. Hamm and D. Christian volunteered to draft the appendix for the Committee.
- R. Bukowski offered to review NFPA 72 to make sure it allows for advance fire technology. This may include combination sensors, smart sensors, etc.

Performance Based Codes:

The adoption of performance based codes is under consideration for the National Fire Alarm Code in the 1999 edition. R. Bukowski drafted a strawman for Chapter 2 of NFPA 72 which was discussed at the meeting. Performance based codes are in the Nordick format including the goal, functional objectives, performance criteria, and verification methods.

Next Meeting of the Committee:

- January 21-23, 1998 in Las Vegas, NV to discuss and vote on all proposals submitted to the Committee
- December 7 -8, 1998 in Tampa, FL to discuss comments on the rejected proposals and reconsider proposals after reviewing comments.